



Public health preparedness for the impact of global warming on human health

Author(s): Wassel JJ
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Abstract:

OBJECTIVE: To assess the changes in weather and weather-associated disturbances related to global warming; the impact on human health of these changes; and the public health preparedness mandated by this impact. **DESIGN:** Qualitative review of the literature. Articles will be obtained by searching PubMed database, Google, and Google Scholar search engines using terms such as "global warming," "climate change," "human health," "public health," and "preparedness." **RESULTS:** Sixty-seven journal articles were reviewed. **CONCLUSIONS:** The projections and signs of global environmental changes are worrisome, and there are reasons to believe that related information may have been conservatively interpreted and presented in the recent past. Although the challenges are great, there are many opportunities for devising beneficial solutions at individual, community, and global levels. It is essential for public health professionals to become involved in advocating for change at all of these levels, as well as through professional organizations. We must begin "greening" our own lives and clinical practice, and start talking about these issues with patients. As we build walkable neighborhoods, change methods of energy production, and make water use and food production and distribution more sustainable, the benefits to improved air quality, a stabilized climate, social support, and individual and community health will be dramatic.

Source: Ask your librarian to help locate this item.

Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Public

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Security, Food/Water Security, Human Conflict/Displacement, Precipitation, Sea Level Rise, Solar Radiation,

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Temperature

Air Pollution: Allergens, Dust, Interaction with Temperature, Ozone, Particulate Matter

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones, Wildfires

Food/Water Quality: Biotoxin/Algal Bloom, Other Water Quality Issue

Water Quality (other): Ocean temperature

Food/Water Security: Agricultural Productivity, Livestock Productivity

Temperature: Extreme Cold, Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Ocean/Coastal, Urban

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cancer, Infectious Disease, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease, Zoonotic Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Cholera, Helminthiases, Other Diarrheal Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease (other): Typhoid

Vectorborne Disease: Fly-borne Disease, Mosquito-borne Disease, Tick-borne Disease

Fly-borne Disease: General Fly-borne Disease, Leishmaniasis, Onchocerciasis

Mosquito-borne Disease: Dengue, General Mosquito-borne Disease, Malaria, Rift Valley Fever, Ross River Virus, West Nile Virus

Tick-borne Disease: General Tick-borne Disease, Lyme Disease

Zoonotic Disease: General Zoonotic Disease, Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome, Other Zoonotic Disease

Zoonotic Disease (other): Oropouche fever

Respiratory Effect: Asthma

Medical Community Engagement:

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

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Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Elderly

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content